

ORIGINAL



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Trisha A. Morgan

From: Jim Mapstead <jim@accuratesigns.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2013 10:47 AM
To: Arizona Corporation Commission
Subject: Stump-Web
Net Metering

E-01345A-12-0290
E-01345A-10-0394
E-01933A-12-0296
E-04204A-12-0297

DOCKETED

JUL 11 2013

Dear Chairman Stump,



I'm writing to you today to provide you with a different perspective in support of Arizona's net metering policy for solar. My correspondence with you could be said that it's on behalf of all the ancillary businesses in the state of Arizona, like mine, who are engaged with solar panel installers. While currently revenues in the amount of \$16.2B (and rising) and the 9,800 jobs (and rising) that are currently employed by the solar industry, we cannot forget all the other businesses in the state that provide support to this rapidly growing industry who could be affected by your decision regarding net metering.

As an example, in 2008 when the automobile industry was on the verge of bankruptcy, there were 1.6 million employed by the auto manufacturers. But all auto related industries and after market businesses employed 3.1 million employees!

I own a sign company that fabricates plastic and aluminum engraved tags that are required on all commercial and residential solar installations. And, primarily because of a strong association with installers around the nation, I purchased a building in December of last year in order to expand, purchased nearly \$50,000 in equipment, and hired additional employees, and by the fourth quarter of this year I hope to add on a second shift to our operations. In addition, we must consider all the other businesses that support the solar industry. A partial list of some businesses that will be impacted by a negative net metering decision will be steel fabricators that make the panel supports, all the electricians that electrical companies have been required to hire, electric wholesalers who sell the wiring, panel boxes, inverter boxes and all the other equipment that are required by installers, safety equipment, property managers that lease space to all the new installers in the state, right down to all the nuts and bolts required on an installation.

I would like to think there is a compromise solution available to you. One that won't adversely impact the future of solar installations in Arizona and the corresponding jobs and revenues on one hand, and one the electric utilities can live with. But please remember that it's Arizona homeowners and small businesses that are making substantial investments in going solar. Their choice, opportunity to save on their utility bill and decision to help the environment I know will be foremost in your deliberative process.

In closing, I do appreciate your time in reading this email. I don't envy your time and efforts necessary in weighing the factual arguments in this matter, but I do appreciate your willingness to hear from small business owners like myself. If you have any questions for me, please contact me at my office or by email. My contact information is listed below my signature.

Best Regards,

Jim Mapstead
Accurate Signs & Engraving, Inc.
8837 North Central Avenue

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Trisha A. Morgan

From: Diane Odonnell [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2013 3:50 PM
To: Stump-Web
Subject: STOP Solar TAX

Changing net metering and taxing solar clients is unfair and needs to be stopped!

Patrick and Diane O'Donnell

Trisha A. Morgan

From: Carolina Baertsch [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2013 3:59 PM
To: Pierce-Web; Burns-Web; Stump-Web; BitterSmith-Web; RBurns-Web
Subject: APS solar changes proposal

Don't let APS change net metering and impose a new solar tax! I installed solar panels on my property and oppose giving APS free power while they charge me for what I consume beyond my system capacity!

Carolina Baertsch PE, LEED ®AP
Widget Creek Engineers LLC

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(480) 252-5295 Fax: (855) 390 3632
www.widgetcreekengineers.com

Trisha A. Morgan

From: Arnold Eisele [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2013 5:09 PM
To: Stump-Web
Subject: APS metering change

Please do not allow APS to change the way they meter my solar panels. I purchased them with the understanding that any excess power would be bought back by APS. By supplying solar power, we who have them are helping APS keep up with customer usage without having to build more generating capacity. I am retired from a midwest electric utility and know how expensive new generation is to build. We have helped APS and now they want to penalize us for doing so. Please do not allow this to happen.

Thank you,
Arnold Eisele
Sun City West, Az

Trisha A. Morgan

From: Linda Sanborn [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2013 9:46 PM
To: Stump-Web
Subject: solar and net metering

Dear Corporation Commissioner,

I am an Arizona voter, utility customer and new solar leasing customer. I am writing to urge you to protect net-metering.

I researched solar leasing for my residence. Other than the chance of becoming a producer of a renewable energy resource, the one incentive for installing a solar system is that I would receive fair credit for the clean power I delivered to the grid for others to use during the day. Without this fair credit -due to my conservation of the excess of what I produced during the cool months, to be paid back when the weather turns so hot that my air cooling needs overtake my production- the expense for purchasing the solar lease would have been unwarranted. My solar research and usage calculation did not offer me a tremendous payback. The calculation showed only that one citizen could cover her own cost annually and add a little something back. I was still willing to pay for the continued connection to the Utility to guarantee stable power for my home. (Stability of the power source is the compelling argument for ongoing nuclear power production.)

I retired after living in Germany for a decade. In Germany, Italy, France and Netherlands I observed the widespread acceptance and installation of solar panels on all manner of family homes, farm fields, schools, small and big business locations. These European governments supported the efforts of its citizens and local governments to add alternative energy production. My interest in integrating solar panels was spurred by what I saw in Europe. (My European friends assumed Arizona was a big producer of solar energy.) If Europe supported solar production, I thought surely America and especially Arizona were doing the same.

To the contrary it seems Arizona citizens' interest in alternative energy is low compared to Europe. I was surprised when my neighbors told me they are not interested in adding solar energy because they don't expect to see an improvement to their current billing. I now understand what they were talking about. By removing net-metering the Utilities' remove an obvious incentive for individual customers (home owners) to invest in solar. Removing net-metering discourages already-reluctant residential customers from joining the target pool of solar energy contributors. Our US military has a way of phrasing it: the willingness to "own the problem" and own the solution. American citizens find it difficult to participate -to "own the problem"- if we do not see the economic advantage of "owning the solution".

Utilities (APS) want Arizona to change its successful net metering program. Their rationale most likely argues in support of their financial statements; however, asking to end net-metering is short-sighted on the part of our Utilities.

American home and business owners spend their own money to install systems that provide many benefits to the grid and other ratepayers. I am concerned that by not properly compensating customers for their energy investment in alternative resource, the willingness to participate in developing alternative energy resources will continue to remain something that only the rich can afford.

The reluctance of middle class Americans (my neighbors and family) toward alternative energy stem from the way the Utilities monopolize our energy. By eliminating net-metering utility companies (APS) cease to be partners with its customers in encouraging energy conservation. One might even conjecture that loss of the net-metering credit legalizes theft of uncompensated energy - with the solar citizen as victim.

Utilities may claim they can find other logistical ways to provide net-metering-like compensation but the Utilities have no incentive to investigate and implement them if they are let off the hook entirely regarding providing net-metering compensation. Net-metering is an incentive that can reward energy users for conservative energy consumption. When was the last time that conserving a resource was seen as an option (incentive) to American citizens?

Europe went through the same Great Recession the USA just went through yet their solar energy resources have flourished in comparison to what has been implemented by American citizens. What is the difference? Governments in Europe have enacted policies that benefit their (frugal) citizens who choose to implement solar (and other) renewable energy production.

Net metering is one of the most important policy tools the Commission has for empowering homes to go solar and become part of a successful sustainable Arizona industry.

We have an opportunity to show the world that our state (Arizona) is ecologically progressive, and socially responsive while being fiscally attentive. You, the Corporation Commission, have an opportunity to make a long-term determination that will promote acceptance of alternative-solar energy by citizens who could not normally participate. I urge you to protect net metering.

Linda Sanborn

[REDACTED]

Surprise, AZ 85374

Trisha A. Morgan

From: rossi777=me.com@mailgun.org on behalf of Dean <rossi777@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2013 6:50 PM
To: Stump-Web
Subject: Corporate welfare has to stop

Dear Commissioner,

You should do everything possible to create incentives for the use of solar panels by individuals and companies. Arizona should be the solar capital of the world. Such incentives will create LOCAL solar companies, jobs, and additional business opportunities.

Thank you.

Dean Roskosz

Trisha A. Morgan

From: Gary Baker [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2013 1:12 PM
To: Pierce-Web; Burns-Web; Stump-Web; BitterSmith-Web; RBurns-Web
Subject: APS - Solar tax

I have become aware that APS is attempting to change (or tax) the net metering on Solar power in Phoenix. It is my opinion that this request is un-fair and nothing more than a cash grab and an effort to solidify their monopoly.

TAXING THE SUN IS ABSOLUTELY RIDICULOUS AND SHOULD NO BE ALLOWED.

Trisha A. Morgan

From: Greg Field [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2013 1:40 PM
To: Pierce-Web; Burns-Web; Stump-Web; BitterSmith-Web; RBurns-Web
Subject: Re: Do Not Let APS Tax Solar & Change Net Metering

ACC,

PV generation provides many direct benefits to the utility, the rate payers at large and to the electric grid itself as it has a rather good match to utility peak loads when such power is most needed and the most costly to produce and distribute. In crying "solar is unfair to us", the utilities are being disingenuous. As a dozen recent studies in as many states show, including CA and AZ, rooftop PV not only benefits the solar customer, but also results in net benefits to all ratepayers. It is only when the utilities put their thumbs on the scales by inflating the costs and neglecting many of the benefits of distributed PV generation can utilities argue that solar and net energy metering somehow is a shifting of costs from Solar customers to Non-solar customers. In fact, as with energy efficiency, solar generation benefits the entire range of customers, participating and nonparticipating alike, by providing not only clean renewable energy but energy when it is most needed and is most highly valued -- during peak periods. As a significant part of an energy mix, solar brings real value to all of us. Are the utilities going to argue next that I should pay more because I put in a more efficient HVAC?

On Wed, Jul 10, 2013 at 1:12 PM, Greg Field <gregjfield@gmail.com> wrote:
Dear ACC,

APS is making money off solar not losing money as they present to you. Please review the article below and show us the leadership that Louisiana & Idaho just showed. Don't let our state become the solar laughing stock of the nation.

<http://www.seia.org/sites/default/files/resources/AZ-Distributed-Generation.pdf>

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324507404578594122250075566.html>

Respectfully,

Greg Field
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

--
Greg Field
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Trisha A. Morgan

From: Patty McGlothlin [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2013 1:42 PM
To: Stump-Web
Subject: Taxing Solar Clients

Changing net metering and taxing solar clients is unfair and needs to be stopped!

P. L. McGlothlin
Buckeye, Az 85326

Trisha A. Morgan

From: Jewell [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2013 2:03 PM
To: Stump-Web
Subject: APS Solar Tax

Mr. Bob Stump:

As a member of the ACC, you were elected to protect the rights of consumers. APS, as a utility monopoly, has continued through the years to increase their electrical rates by passing unapproved increases onto consumers by tacking on extra taxes and fees that are not regulated by the ACC.

Since 2000, I have done a number of things to reduce my electrical consumption to include dual pane windows, extra insulation and keeping my house thermostat set at 80 degrees or more. Well my house is uncomfortable during the summer even with fans blowing in every room.

I have been considering solar for a number of years but did not commit until this past fall. This is the first summer with solar and I lowered my thermostat to 77 degrees because I was not sure whether I would consume more electricity than I make. But apparently, I produce more than I consume so I could probably lower the thermostat some more.

But what I have notice about my bill (which does not show much of anything from the APS side) is that I am still paying money to APS. It is under \$15 per month. I thought my credits would zero out the bill...at least that was what I was led to believe. I assume that APS is simply passing through some taxes and fees.

Now I hear that they are calling for a "solar tax". I'm not sure what that means but I'm sure it means that their solar customers are "going to be taken to the cleaners" especially if you approve it. I have read that the rooftop solar industry provides \$34 million a year in uncompensated benefits and subsidies to APS. I believe this because when my solar was turned on and producing power without a net-meter being installed to identify the amount of electrical production. Since I was lucky to have my net-meter installed within two days, APS only received 69 kilowatts minus my usage for "free" from my system. Add up all the other systems where APS has taken longer to install the net-meter and we have a small fortune. And I have a very small system on my rooftop.

I think \$34 million dollars in free money is pretty good for APS. APS does not deserve more money by passing on additional taxes or fees to solar customers. APS needs to reduce their expenses just like their customers. They need to embrace cheaper forms of electricity and innovation.

Currently, the compensation for net-metering is extremely poor for the solar customer when you

consider how much it costs to produce. Do not take it away. If you take it away, you are saying it is okay for APS to rob its customers. I thought robbery was still a criminal act in our State Statutes.

Jewell Hawthorne
An APS Customer for 37 Years

Trisha A. Morgan

From: Sonny Shrivastava <sonny@westusa.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2013 2:25 PM
To: Pierce-Web; Burns-Web; Stump-Web; BitterSmith-Web; RBurns-Web
Subject: Do not change net metering, do no tax solar clients

Esteemed Commissioners,

I respectfully would like to make my voice heard in this growing debate about whether it is appropriate to levy a separate tax on solar clients and to allow APS to change its net metering policies. Many thousands of APS customers have installed solar PV systems on their rooftops, basing their decisions on financial calculations that were reliant, in whole or in part, upon APS' solar net metering policies and rates.

I am a very busy Realtor® in the west valley. Many of my clients prefer to buy homes with solar panels and are willing to pay a premium. Our Multiple Listing Service has even added fields for solar PV systems and green improvements due to the level of interest those items have commanded from home buyers. Many of our local builders are including solar panels as standard features because that is what consumers are demanding. Levying a discriminatory tax against solar PV owners, and allowing APS to change its net metering rates and policies to anything less beneficial than currently exist, would have a correspondingly negative impact on sales and values of homes with solar PV systems. The real estate market is strong again in Phoenix. Property values were up 30% in 2012 and we are looking to break more records this year. Your decision could have a significant impact on the housing recovery in much of Maricopa County.

The reduction and elimination of APS rebates as incentives to owners of solar PV systems over the last couple of years have pushed more customers into long term leases, and as I said above, all of us who signed leases based our decisions on APS' solar net metering policies as they currently exist. Allowing APS to unilaterally change the rules is not fair, totally undemocratic, unpatriotic, and I can see no legal basis that would allow you to single out a class of citizens for a special tax, and to allow APS - from whom we are all *forced* to purchase power - to eliminate or reduce the benefits upon which thousands of us based expensive financial decisions. If I am forced to buy power from APS, APS should be forced to buy power from me at the same rate as they charge me. Unless I'm mistaken, my net metering agreement with APS is a legally binding contract that cannot be changed without the consent and permission of both parties.

Approving APS' request would make solar PV systems far less financially beneficial for customers, putting a vast array of solar installers and those in the labor and supply chains out of work at a fragile time when our local housing market and economies are recovering. I hope that cool heads and common sense prevail in your discussions, and that we can all look forward to a cleaner and brighter future in Arizona where we have many beneficial energy options to feed hungry consumers and voters alike.

Have a nice day.

Sonny Shrivastava GRI CSSN CNE CDPE

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